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ABSTRACTS



JUVENILE JUSTICE IN PORTUGAL: HOW ARE SELF-REPORT STUDIES MEASURING UP TO OFFICIAL DELINQUENCY ESTIMATES

P. Martins¹, S. M. Mendes², G. Fernandez-Pacheco Alises²

¹*University of Minho, Psychology, Braga, Portugal*

²*University Fernando Pessoa, Criminology, Porto, Portugal*

This paper empirically discusses the evolution and status of the self-report method in assessing delinquent behavior in Portugal. This paper addresses the methodological criticisms of self-report research and the question of the consistency between self-reported data and official estimates of delinquent behavior in the context of a particular national setting. We review the specific methodological criticisms of self-report delinquency research and the validity and reliability of self-report measures. Using a particular national setting and data from samples of youngsters, we seek to review and compare findings of previous self-report research in Portugal with official data. Have self-report measures been reflective of delinquent involvement? How have any discrepancies between the two types of delinquency data evolved? The frequency and seriousness of self-reported delinquent behavior are analyzed for differences among several socio-demographic and socio-economic over time. These data are then compared with data on self-reported police contacts and with data found in police and court records.